

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

EPIPHANY 3 (YEAR C)

## COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Neh 8.1–3,5–6,8–10*

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the

words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 19*



*R.* Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life. *(All repeat)*



The law of the | Lord is perfect,  
it re-*l*vives the soul.

The testimony of the | Lord is sure,  
it gives wisdom | to the simple. *R.*

The statutes of the | Lord are just,  
they make the | heart rejoice.

The judgements of the | Lord are true  
and righteous | altogether. *R.*

More to be desired are | they than gold,  
more than | much fine gold;  
sweeter by | far than honey,  
than honey | from the comb. *R.*

By them also is your ser-*l*vant enlightened;  
in keeping them there is | great reward.  
Keep your servant from pre-*l*sumptuous sins;  
let them not get do-*l*minion over me. *R.*

So shall | I be blameless,  
and innocent of | great offence.  
Let my words and thoughts be acceptable | in  
your sight,  
O Lord my strength and | my redeemer. *R.*

## SECOND READING

*1 Cor 12.12–16,20–21,27–31*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all

baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*1 Tim 3.16*

**Alleluia.**

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed  
among the nations:  
and believed in throughout the world.

**Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING

*Lk 4.14–21*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had

been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Of your loving-kindness, Lord, receive and sanctify our offerings, and grant that they may be for us the means of salvation; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**